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Clues Are Offered Shevchenko Riddle

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 19—On the day that Arkady N. Shevchenko signed a two-year contract to remain as an Under Secretary General, another United Nations official remembers that the Soviet citizen brushed aside congratulations, saying he would be happier returning to Moscow.

"Then why don't you do some terrible thing and get your Government to recall you?" the official—an American—suggested as a joke. The two laughed, then went their separate ways.

But less than two months later, Mr. Shevchenko was summoned home and refused to go, explaining only that he had "differences" with his Government. He hired an American lawyer, and on April 9 dropped out of sight temporarily.

Responsible intelligence sources said that both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been in contact with Mr. Shevchenko over a two-year period. The relationship apparently developed during this period to the point where Mr. Shevchenko offered to trade information for \$100,000.

Agency Competition Suggested

A few knowledgeable diplomats here are suggesting that there was a competition between the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. to get him, and that in the process his secret activities became known to Soviet authorities, leading to his recall and his subsequent decision. Officials in Washington said, however, that they had no confirmation that Mr. Shevchenko may have been exposed because of the rivalry. Although spokesmen for the F.B.I., the C.I.A. and the State Department would not comment on Mr. Shevchenko's reported intelligence contacts, others familiar with the case offer the following speculations:

The 47-year-old native of the Ukraine was known as an intensely ambitious man who had attained prominence early and been a protégé of Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko. In that role, he had intimate knowledge of the sensitive arms-control negotiations, which resulted in the so-called SALT I accord of 1972. He has been able during Mr. Gromyko's visits here each fall to keep abreast of developments.

However, he was said to be increasingly

disturbed that his position here was a backwater. This frustration may have prompted him to try to obtain information that would be prized in Moscow and led him into a deepening involvement in the intelligence community. Another view is that he may just have decided his talents were not being appreciated at home and he could do better elsewhere.

Mr. Shevchenko was a member of the Soviet delegation in New York from 1963 to 1970, immediately before he was posted to the Foreign Ministry in Moscow. It is assumed that his access to information on Soviet policy would be useful to the C.I.A. He also could have been expected to have information about any intelligence-gathering activity by Russians in this country that would be valuable to the F.B.I.

A Meeting in Lawyer's Office

According to one well-placed source, the C.I.A. probably favored his returning home while the F.B.I. was reluctant to let him slip away. But there is no confirmation that this led one or the other agency to try to influence Mr. Shevchenko's decision.

What seems to be well-supported is that he at least went through the motions of getting ready to go to Moscow for a short trip, reportedly because of the illness of his mother-in-law. He was to leave on Sunday, April 9, accompanied by his wife, Leninga. On Wednesday and Thursday he was at work, issuing precise instructions to subordinates in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs.

He seemed untroubled, according to one official, who noted that he had discussed such matters as the need for larger office space before leaving. However, late Thursday he called the security office to ask for new locks on his office and also to request that the door be sealed until his return. Then he disappeared.

His wife left Sunday, as planned. Oleg A. Troyanovsky, the Soviet delegate, and Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Ambassador to Washington, both saw her off.

Ernest A. Gross, Mr. Shevchenko's lawyer, arranged for both ranking Russians to meet that evening with Mr. Shevchenko at Mr. Gross's Wall Street office to dispel any idea that his client was being held against his will. The two Russians spent an hour trying to persuade Mr.

Shevchenko to change his mind. Then on Tuesday the Soviet delegation issued a statement charging that Mr. Shevchenko was being held by intelligence agents "under duress." The coercion charges were denied in Washington.

Meanwhile, stories of Mr. Shevchenko's having had a "drinking problem" were spread, with Russian members saying they knew he drank to excess, even during working hours. One Russian said he drank gin beginning in the early morning. Another said he was a Scotch drinker. A third said he preferred rum Cokes. There also were rumors of quarrels with his wife and one report was passed to reporters by American officials that he appeared with bruises after she beat him. There also was gossip about involvement with another woman.

Close associates disputed the accounts of excessive drinking, saying that they had never seen him intoxicated during the day. One well-placed source said he drank but had tapered off in the last year.

Another American here who knew Mr. and Mrs. Shevchenko during the five years he had been here as Under Secretary General, said they seemed compatible and that they obviously had enjoyed the "perks" that came with his prestigious job and \$87,000-a-year salary. "He seemed very proud of her and pleased when I complimented her and remarked on the diamond jewelry she wore at a reception at the Chinese Mission," the American said.

However, another official here said there was substance to reports that Mr. Shevchenko had a woman companion and that this factor should not be ruled out as an influence on his decision to remain here.

Visited Mission Frequently

A number of diplomats have said privately that they took it for granted that the Under Secretary General maintained close links with Soviet authorities and went frequently to the Soviet Mission at 136 East 67th Street, only a few blocks from his own residence.

All staff members are supposed to be bound by their loyalty oath not to take instructions from any government. More candid than some, Mr. Shevchenko on occasion would concede in private that he was mindful how his decisions would be scrutinized at home and also used phrases such as "my mission would not like" this or that. Other East Europeans have said that the control extends even to their salaries and that they are expected to turn over a part on the ground that they should not earn more than the foreign service employees of their home governments.

One of Mr. Shevchenko's major preoccupations was said to be the book he was writing under a contract signed three years ago with Alfred A. Knopf, the American publishing house, and which was tentatively titled: "Disarmament—a Soviet View."

Ashbel Green, a vice president at Knopf



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who worked with Mr. Shevchenko, said he assumed that authorities in Moscow had approved his writing the book and doubted it could have caused him any difficulties at home. His predecessor as Under Secretary General—the post traditionally goes to a Soviet citizen—also had written a book.

Mr. Shevchenko is technically on leave and is receiving his salary and has not resigned, although Soviet authorities are pressing for his removal.

Since he has a new two-year contract, presumably he could be able to negotiate terms for his resignation and leave with as much as \$100,000, officials here said.

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U.S. Intelligence Officials Dismiss Torrijos Threat

Pentagon officials denied yesterday that U.S. intelligence has any evidence that Gen. Omar Torrijos planned to attack the U.S. Canal Zone if the Senate had rejected the canal treaty.

U.S. intelligence officials instead dismissed the Panamanian leader's remarks that he was planning such an attack as political rhetoric.

However, Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) said Torrijos' threat imperils other legislation related to turning the canal over to Panama in the year 2000.

"The fight isn't over by a long shot," he told reporters. Baker called Torrijos' threats to attack "among the silliest diplomatic gestures I've ever seen."

Pentagon officials also said yesterday that no troops had been put

on alert in the Canal Zone before the Senate vote. However, these same Pentagon officials said that coincidentally there was a battalion of Army troops conducting a training drill in the zone in combat gear shortly before the vote was taken.

The infantry battalion that was on maneuvers the Defense Department said, was "not oriented toward any contingency related to defense of the canal zone."

In a separate response to queries made about plans to defend the canal, the Pentagon for the last several days has been saying there are contingency plans, which it could not specify. But, defense officials said, the United States was confident it could defend the canal against attacks if any were mounted.

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Publisher Is Subpoenaed On Ex-CIA Aide's Book

By Lee Lescaze
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK—The Justice Department has ordered Random House, which published former CIA official Frank Snepp's "Decent Interval," to disclose all its documents concerning that account of the fall of South Vietnam.

The Justice Department is suing Snepp for all the money he has earned from his book on the grounds that his gains are "unjust enrichment" because Snepp signed a pledge demanded of all CIA officers when he joined the agency to submit any manuscript to it for prepublication approval.

The suit is the first full test of the constitutionality of that pledge.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell told a news conference two months ago: "If that contract isn't valid, we and everyone ought to know it. If it's valid, it ought to be enforced."

Snepp has said he decided not to submit his book before publication because it contains no classified information and because government officials had been leaving self-serving versions of events surrounding the collapse of South Vietnam to the press.

The subpoenas delivered to Random House ordered the publishing house's chief, Robert L. Bernstein, and Snepp's editor, Robert Loomis, to appear at the New York U.S. attorney's office next week, and to bring with them, in effect, all documents concerning their relations with Snepp and his book.

A spokesman for Random House said yesterday that the subpoenas would be honored and Random House was in the process of gathering the documents.

The government specifically ordered Random House to produce all documents "which related to, discuss

or mention the decision or conclusion, explicit or implicit, not to submit ["Decent Interval"] to the CIA for agency review prior to publication of the book."

It also calls for all documents concerning monies earned by the book or by the sale of any form of republication rights.

On March 31, U.S. District Court Judge Oren Lewis in Alexandria refused a Justice Department request for an immediate ruling against Snepp and gave both sides two months to gather evidence in the case.

The Justice Department argued that the case follows the precedent of a book by former CIA officer Victor Marchetti and John Marks, "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence."

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Marchetti's contract signed when he joined the CIA was valid, but applied only to any classified information he sought to publish.

The CIA won the right to delete passages from the Marchetti manuscript.

Snepp's attorney argued that since "Decent Interval" contains no classified material, the case is different from Marchetti's.

"Decent Interval" accuses the U.S. government of bungling the final evacuation from Saigon and thereby leaving behind thousands of Vietnamese who had worked for the CIA and other U.S. agencies.

New York Neuters Name Of Compensation Board

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York's Workmen's Compensation Board is changing its name in an acknowledgment to millions of working women.

Gov. Hugh Carey signed into law Wednesday a bill that changes the title to Worker's Compensation Board.

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Vietnamese, Freed on Bail, Declares He's 'Nobody's Spy'

By Jane Seaberry
Washington Post Staff Writer

In his first formal press conference since he was indicted last January on espionage charges, David Truong yesterday told reporters invited by his defense committee, "I am nobody's agent and nobody's spy."

Truong, flanked on a sofa by his two attorneys, said calmly but emphatically under the illumination of bright television lights, that he "would like to take this chance to straighten out a little the record" of his case.

Truong, a Vietnamese expatriate, said charges that he delivered stolen classified U.S. diplomatic cables to foreign agents was a government ploy to weaken attempts to normalize relations between Vietnam and the U.S. Truong's codefendant, U.S. Information Agency employe Ronald L. Hum-

phrey, is still in jail on \$150,000 bond. Humphrey is accused of stealing the cables and delivering them to Truong.

Truong was released from the Alexandria jail last Friday after posting a \$250,000 bond.

Truong said he and his family have only worked to "bring Americans and Vietnamese people together."

The press briefing was sponsored by the Vietnam Trial Support Committee which was formed to "assure an adequate defense for David Truong," according to one of numerous leaflets distributed at the meeting. The committee so far has spent less than \$1,500 for Truong, according to committee member Carl Rogers and will be showing a Vietnam-related film, "Coming Home" at three Washington theaters April 30 to raise more money.

The committee, composed of many of Truong's friends, is for Truong's benefit, not Humphrey's.